GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1042
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF DIRECTORATE OF MAIZE RESEARCH
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of setting up of Directorate of Maize Research (DMR), Pusa, New Delhi;

(b) the target fixed and achievements made by DMR during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the achievements made commensurate with the cost involved therein;

(d) if not, the factors responsible thereto; and

(e) the steps being taken to remedy the situation and to fix the responsibility?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Brief aims and objectives for setting up Directorate of Maize Research (DMR) are as under:

(i) To undertake basic and strategic research activities for germplasm enhancement like tolerance to abiotic and biotic stresses, quality improvement specialized uses etc.

(ii) To conduct and coordinate the multilocational testing of maize germplasm, other research activities at different research stations of the country

(iii) To develop efficient package of practices for increasing maize production and productivity.

(iv) To generate technologies for tailoring maize for diversified uses for industry and other sectors

(v) To organize activities related to overall development of maize like training programmes, on- farm researches and frontline demonstrations.

(vi) To develop effective collaborative programmes in maize research and development with national and international agencies/ institutions.

(b) The target fixed for the period are: Development and release of high yielding single cross hybrids and high quality protein maize hybrids, identification of sources of resistance and breeder seed production activity, on-farm researches and frontline demonstrations etc. Keeping in view the above target in mind, the major emphasis was given on the development of single cross hybrids with a view to get quantum jump in productivity and production. This activity has resulted in release of more than 20 hybrids for different agro-climatic regions of the country during last 3 years. Value addition in maize has been the priority area of DMR as normal maize is deficient in two essential amino acids i.e lysine and tryptophan. To overcome this deficiency two high quality protein maize hybrids i.e. Shaktiman 1 and Shaktiman 2 has been identified and released for commercial cultivation in the states of UP and Bihar.Diseases and insect pests are responsible for lowering maize yields appreciably; the project has been able to identify valuable sources of resistance such as CM 104, CM 105, CM 500, Suwan I etc. to major diseases which have been utilized in breeding programme to minimize loss due to these diseases. Quality seed is vital input for realizing high yields. In this direction, the project has worked out suitable technologies for production of breeder seed which have been utilized for certified seed production. During last 3 years about 145 quintals of breeders seed was produced. During last three years on an average, about 6100 Frontline demonstrations (FLDS) were conducted during kharif season and about 4800 FLDs during rabi season. Average yields during kharif and rabi seasons in the FLDs were 33.98 q/ha and 48.06 q/ha, respectively. Maximum yield was obtained in Gujarat 72.73 q/ha during rabi and 46.76 in kharif during 2001. During last 3 years productivity in maize has increased from 1785 kg/ha to 2060 kg/ha.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e): Question does not arise, Sir.